FLOOD
PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WATCH AND A WARNING FOR FLOODING?

Flooding stands as one of the most common and expensive natural calamities. Floods often result from prolonged heavy rainfall over days, saturating the soil. Flash floods, on the other hand, emerge abruptly due to swiftly rising water in streams or low-lying regions.

WATCH: Indicates potential flooding or flash flooding in your vicinity.

WARNING: Indicates ongoing or imminent flooding or flash flooding in your area.

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Before a Flood

Stay Informed

- ☐ Monitor local weather reports and emergency notifications
- ☐ Know the difference between a **flood watch** (flooding is possible) and a **flood warning** (flooding is occurring or will occur soon)

Create an Emergency Plan

- ☐ Develop a family emergency plan that includes evacuation routes and meeting points
- ☐ Ensure everyone knows where emergency supplies are kept

Prepare an Emergency Kit

- ☐ Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days)
- ☐ Non-perishable food items
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Medications (7-day supply)
- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ Copies of important documents (insurance policies, identification, etc.)
- ☐ Cash and coins.

Protect Your Property

- ☐ Clear gutters and drains of debris
- ☐ Anchor fuel tanks
- ☐ Install check valves in plumbing to prevent floodwater from backing up into drains
- ☐ Elevate utilities (furnace, water heater, electric panel) above potential flood levels

Review Insurance Policies

- ☐ Ensure you have adequate flood insurance coverage
- ☐ Know the extent of your coverage and what is and isn't covered

During a Flood

Evacuation

- ☐ Follow evacuation orders from local authorities
- ☐ Do not walk, swim, or drive through floodwaters; just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you over

Safety

- ☐ If trapped in a building, go to the highest level but do not climb into a closed attic; you could get trapped by rising floodwater
- ☐ Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so

After a Flood

Safety First

- ☐ Avoid driving unless absolutely necessary
- ☐ Watch for washed-out roads, damaged bridges, and debris
- ☐ Stay away from downed power lines

Assess Damage

- ☐ Document damage with photographs
- ☐ Contact your insurance agent to begin the claims process

Clean Up

- ☐ Remove water from your home as quickly as possible
- ☐ Wear protective gear during cleanup to avoid contact with floodwater

Health and Hygiene

- ☐ Wash hands frequently with soap and clean water
- ☐ Avoid eating or drinking anything exposed to floodwaters

Seek Support

- ☐ Contact disaster relief agencies for assistance if needed
- ☐ Reach out to family, friends, or neighbors for support

Stay Informed

Flooding is a prevalent and costly natural disaster that can have a significant impact on communities. Whether due to prolonged heavy rainfall or sudden flash floods, these events can lead to severe damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Being prepared is crucial for safeguarding yourself, your family, and your property during these emergencies.

Remember to stay informed about potential flooding in your area by monitoring local weather reports, emergency notifications, and official alerts. Knowing the difference between flood watches and flood warnings can help you take timely action to protect yourself and your property.

Being prepared for floods is crucial for your safety and well-being. By following the guidelines and using the Flood Preparation Checklist provided in this guide, you can better protect yourself, your family, and your property from the devastating effects of flooding. Take proactive steps today to prepare for tomorrow's uncertainties.